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Procedia Computer Science 32 (2014) 882 – 887

Procedia Computer Science

The 2nd International Workshop on Body Area Sensor Networks (BASNet-2014)

# LOS/NLOS Identification Based on Stable distribution Feature Extraction and SVM Classifier for UWB On-Body Communications

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**Abstract**

This paper presents a technique for identifying between both Line-Of-Sight (LOS) and Non-Line-Of-Sight (NLOS) propagation schemes for UWB on-body context. The wireless communications for body area networks have a great attention in the last years especially after the IEEE 802.15.6 standard. We focus in the first to extract only the pertinent information using Stable Distribution compared with statistical techniques, and secondly to classify it using Support Vector Machine (SVM) with as main goal to identify the two LOS and NLOS phenomena. We propose a technique to make the classification easy between LOS and NLOS contexts for UWB on-body communications. All simulations were applied to UWB measurements collected in [9].



*Keywords:* Ultra-wideband (UWB); Line-of-sight (LOS); Non-line-of-sight (NLOS); Stable distribution; Support vector machine (SVM); On-body communications.

## 1. Introduction

Body Area Networks (BANs) have received a considerable attention in the last few years. With IEEE 802.15.6 standard, BANs use ultra-wideband (UWB) in several domain like telemedicine, medical applications and communications for on-body situations. The UWB technology is adapted to indoor localization thanks to a fine delay resolution and obstacle-penetration capabilities.

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doi:10.1016/j.procs.2014.05.506

Thus, UWB represents hopeful technology for localization applications in harsh environments and critical applications[1,8,13,15] in many domains including medical, military[2,3,4], notably for wireless personal area networks (WPANs) and especially for modern telemedicine systems using the IEEE 802.15.6 standard. BANs have a great potential for UWB medicine systems and channel models have been standardized. In this context, this work will only consider CM3 and CM4 (CM: Channel Model) for LOS/NLOS body surface to body surface UWB, and for LOS/NLOS body surface to external UWB respectively[18]. The UWB systems consists to transmit a very short pulse of only a few nanoseconds over a large frequency bandwidth from 500 MHz to several GHz or a relative bandwidth larger than 20% of central frequency, according to the specification of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). A lot of challenges remain before implementation of UWB can be deployed on a large scale. These include signal acquisition, multi-user interferences, multipath and NLOS propagations[1,2,13,14]. The latter case is especially critical for most location-based applications because the NLOS propagation introduces positive bias in the estimation of distance, which can seriously affect the performance of localization. There are several techniques to deal with ranging bias in NLOS phenomena, which we classify as identification techniques. More details about NLOS identification techniques can be found in [1,2,8,15]. In [1] the non-parametric method is tested to distinguish between the LOS and NLOS conditions especially for localization using LS-SVM (Least Square Support Vector Machine). The authors evaluate two conditions with two scenarios, parametric and non-parametric, and obtain a classification rate of 84% for the first scenario and 91% for the second using LS-SVM. In [2] with the same aim to localization, an identification and mitigation technique is used with the same situations of [1], giving only 60% of identification with an accuracy less than 1 meter. In this paper, we propose a technique of identification and demonstrate the need for LOS and NLOS identification for several domains like mitigation and localization for on-body communications. Our approach is based on stable distribution using SVM technique[5]. These techniques will be detailed in the section IV. The objectives are to obtain the better identification with a good mitigation or localization. The measurements used were collected from a measurement campaign by Body-centric Wireless Sensor Lab (Body WiSeR)[9,17] with low loss coaxial cables to measure the transmission response[3]. The rest of this paper is organized as follows. The proposed methods are presented in the section II. The section III is devoted to global discussion and results, before the conclusion.

## 2. Proposed approach

In this section, we present our method for identification between the classes and specially to distinguish between the LOS and NLOS phenomena for UWB on-body communications. In our approach, we begin with testing the statistical method and we describe our choice of method for this work based on stable distribution for feature extraction and SVM for identification. In the remainder of this paper, we focus on techniques that identify the effects of LOS and NLOS phenomena. This identification helps in many domains like localization and mitigation, but the aim for this approach is to obtain a good rate of signal recognition for better identification. In [1,2,8], NLOS has been used for identification, localization and mitigation, with the same objectives in all works: to find a method that facilitates the task for a good identification. In the literature, the NLOS conditions are presented by a signal more attenuated and that has smaller energy and amplitude; in LOS conditions, the signal is strong and present high energy and amplitude. Generally, for the on-body communications the information is presented by the physiological signals, and the rate of such signals is more down compared with other applications of UWB[1,2]. Fig. 1(a) shows a clear difference between LOS and NLOS situations. Therefore, it is necessary to choose a good method for extraction and classification.

The proposed methods rely on two main phases: learning phase and testing phase. In the first phase, the raw data are used to extract reliable feature based on stable distribution, which is then used to learn models on on-line situation. These features are then used to find SVM classifier corresponding to different conditions of the component. The method is based on a non-destructive control: the acquired signals are processed to extract features in the form of stable distribution coefficients ($\mu$, c, $\alpha$ and $\beta$) used to find the SVM classifier for on-body communications. In the second phase we proceed to an identification based on the test parameters presented by off-line phase as shown in Fig. 1(b). For the feature extraction we calculated four statistical parameters from the time domain data, to first prove the choice of our method and secondly to test the results with our approach using SVM classifier as shown in Fig. 1(b). These feature parameters were kurtosis, entropy estimation, mean and variance. In this work we divided the on-body data in LOS and NLOS matrices. For better training and testing of on-body communications we have only selected four features. The selected features were kurtosis, mean, entropy estimation and variance, because they give the best separation between classes. We then compared the results with the four parameters obtained from stable distribution.

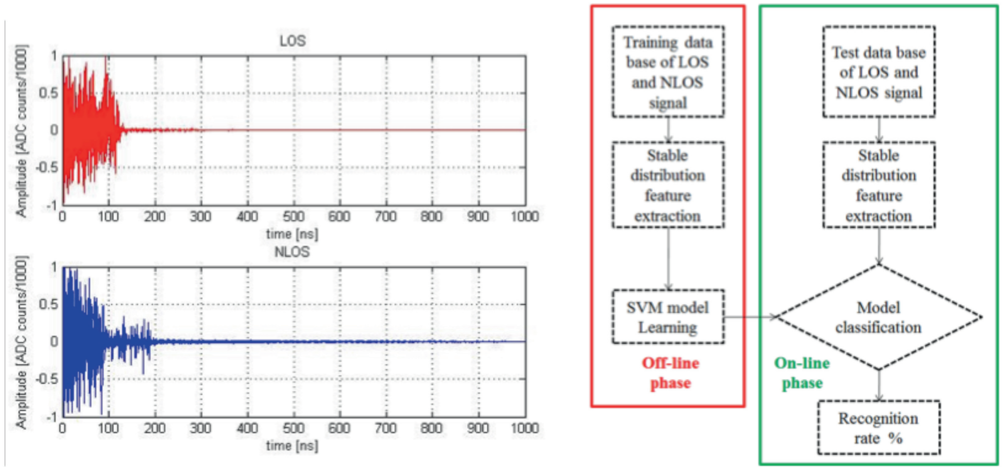


Fig. 1. (a) left, difference between LOS and NLOS; (b) right, proposed approach

## 2.1. Stable distribution

Although the probability density function for a general stable distribution cannot be written analytically, the general characteristic function for any probability distribution is determined by its φ(t) by:

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi(t) e^{-ixt} \, dt$$

A random variable X is called stable if its characteristic function can be written as:

$$\varphi(t, \mu, c, \alpha, \beta) = \exp\left[ it\mu - |ct|^{\alpha} \left(1 - i\beta \operatorname{sgn}(t) \phi\right) \right]$$

Where *sgn(t)* is just the sign of *t* and Φ is given by $\Phi = \tan(\pi C\alpha/2)$ for all α except α=1 in which case: $\Phi = -2/\pi \log(t)$. Such distributions form a four-parameter family of continuous probability distributions parameterized by location and scale (μ and c), two shape parameters (α and β), β roughly corresponding to the measures of asymmetry and concentration. The “alpha-stable” are rich classes of probability distributions that include the Gaussian (α=2), Cauchy (α=1) and Lévy (α=5); all have the above property: it follows that they are special cases of stable distributions (Fig. 2(a)).

In our approach, we are fitting the data with stable distribution based on McCulloch method[12]. With this method we obtained four consistent estimators in terms of five sample quantiles, and tabulated the values of the four estimators.

## 2.2. Support Vector Machine

The support vector machine (SVM) is based on a simple idea that originated in statistical learning theory by Vapnik[5]. This simplicity comes from the fact that this technique uses a simple linear method, but applied in high-dimensional feature space non-linearly related to the input space. It represents one of the most broadly used classification techniques because of its robustness, its performance and its rigorous underpinning compared to other techniques like neural networks[6].

For the identification, support vector machines separate the deferent classes of data by a hyper plane[7] $(w,\varphi(x)) + b = 0$ corresponding to the function $F(x) = sign\ ((w,\varphi(x)) + b) = 0$ where F(x) is a predetermined function, and $w$ and $b$ are unknown parameters of the classifier.

These parameters are determined based on the training set, where and {-1,+1} are the inputs and labels, respectively. In some cases, the two classes can be separated and the SVM determines the separating hyper plane that maximizes the margin between the two classes. Generally, most practical problems involve classes that are not separable. In this case, the SVM is obtained by solving the following optimization problem:

$$\arg\min_{w,b,\varepsilon} \frac{1}{2}\|w\|^2 + \gamma \sum_{k=1}^{N} \varepsilon_k \quad \text{with} \quad l_{ky}\left(X_k\right) \geq 1 - \varepsilon_k, \forall k$$

Where $\varepsilon_k$ are slack variables that allow the SVM to tolerate misclassifications and $\gamma$ controls the trade-off between minimizing training errors and complexity[2].

## 3. Simulations and results

All identification methods have been tested with the data obtained from Body WiSeR laboratory measurements as described in [9]. The measurements are based in the scenarios in-body and on-body communications. In this work we are only interested in on-body communications. In the database the LOS scenarios are presented in 1 to 56 and the NLOS are presented in 57 to 110 (see Fig. 2(b)). We have constructed a matrix for LOS and another one for NLOS. We started our approach by studying the impact of LOS and NLOS in different situations. First, we proceed in the study of the impulse response as shown in Fig. 3(a) that shows the huge difference between the two phenomena. Secondly, we study the power delay profile in the two conditions, the results are presented in Fig. 3(b).

We proceeded with three scenarios. In the first scenario we began to classify the raw data LOS and NLOS using SVM method. In this case, the recognition rate is 50% between LOS and NLOS. In the second scenario, we extracted only some information from data using statistical methods described in section III. We used kurtosis, mean, entropy and variance to extract only the pertinent information and we used the SVM classifier, but we still get the same recognition rate of 50%. In the third scenario, we extracted the pertinent information from data using stable distribution. Information about α, β, γ, c is described in Table 1. After having reduced the size, we proceeded to identification using SVM: the results are presented in Table 2.

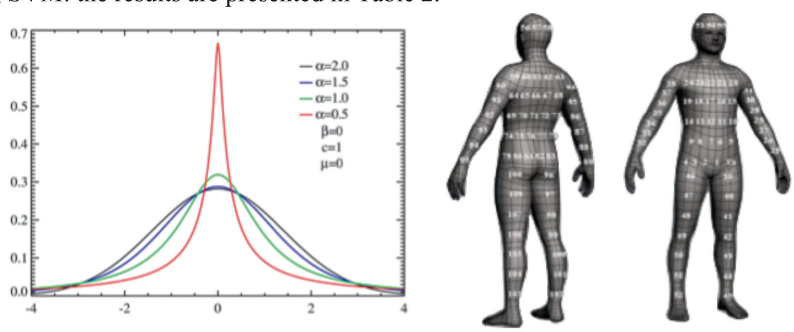


Fig. 2. (a) left, stable distribution; (b) right, on-body index locations for (a) NLOS and (b) LOS

Then, we have proceeded to fit the data in different situations using normal, logistic, t Location-scale, generalized extreme value methods, as well as our own. In all fitting scenarios for the two situations LOS and NLOS, we found that only the stable distribution permits to cover all data: results are presented in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5.

Table 1. The values of stable distribution parameters

| Data | α | β | γ | c |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LOS | 0.654 | -0.0087 | 2.41e-005 | 4.42e-007 |
| NLOS | 0.538 | -0.0256 | 3.62e-0.005 | 8.21e-007 |

Table 2. All results of extraction and classification scenarios for different identification methods compared with others results

| *Others* | *Feature* | *Classification* | *Recognition rate* | *Network type* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S.Marano[1] | RMS, kurtosis, mean excess delay | LS-SVM | 84% | PAN |
| S.Marano[2] | RMS, kurtosis, mean excess delay | LS-SVM | 91% | PAN |
| M.Tabaa[16] | Kurtosis, mean, energy and entropy | SVM | 86.31% | PAN |
| M.Tabaa[16] | Stable distribution | SVM | 100% | PAN |
| This work | Raw data | SVM | 50% | BAN |
| This work | Kurtosis, mean, entropy and variance | SVM | 50% | BAN |
| **This work** | **Stable distribution** | **SVM** | **87.5%** | **BAN** |

Compared to other techniques, Table 2 shows that our approach gives a recognition rate for BAN communications very close to those obtained in [1] and [2] for PANs. Our approach had been validated for PANs in [16], and this work shows that it also gives good results for on-body communications.

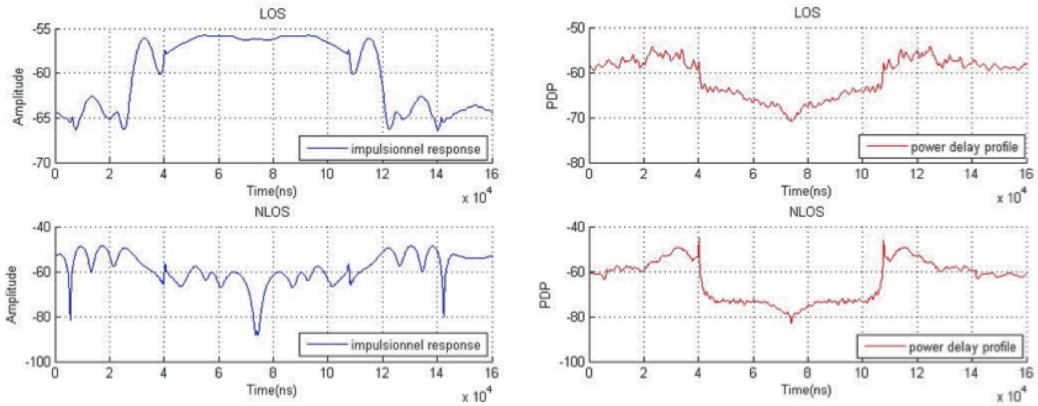


Fig. 3. (a) left, impulse response for LOS and NLOS phenomena; (b) right, power delay profile for LOS and NLOS phenomena

## 4. Conclusion

In this paper we described the need for LOS and NLOS paths identification for On-Body communications and the approach to make identification easier using the stable distribution for the feature extraction and support vector machine classifier for identification. This approach gives good results compared to other statistical methods: kurtosis, mean, power, entropy and variance. By using the both stable distribution and SVM classifier we developed a technique that is capable of distinguishing two critical LOS and NLOS phenomena for on-body communications.

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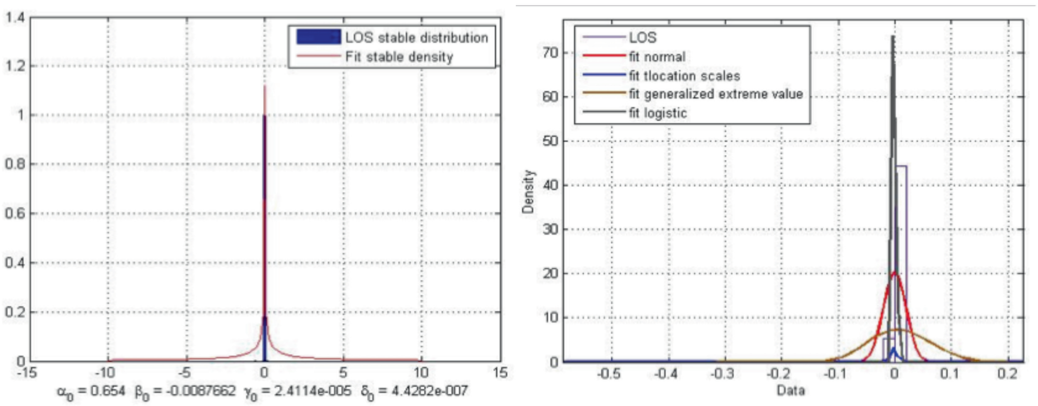


Fig. 4. (a) left, LOS data and stable distribution fitting; (b) right, LOS data and other distribution fitting

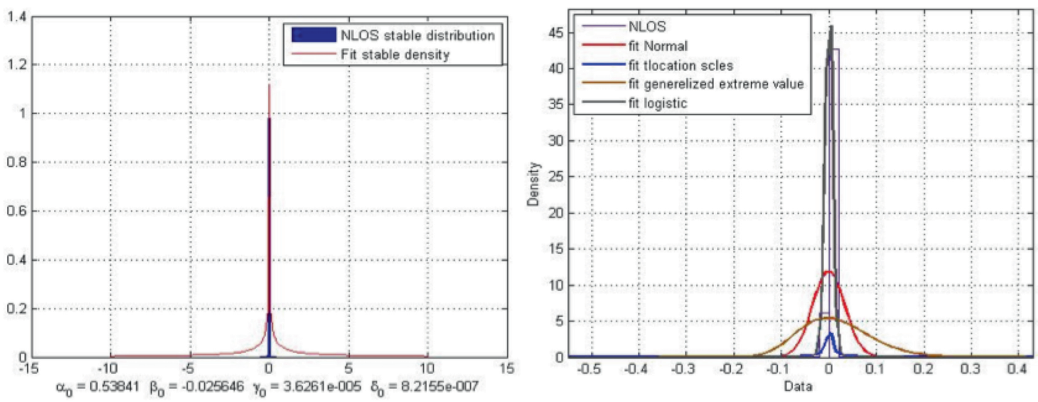


Fig. 5. (a) left, NLOS data and stable distribution fitting; (b) right, NLOS data and other distribution fitting